

REMARKS

The applicants wish to express their appreciation for indicating that dependent claims 2-8, and 12-13 include allowable subject matter. To expedite prosecution, the applicants have added the limitations of claim 2 to independent claim 1. In addition, the applicants also have added the limitations of claim 4 to claim 1 (new independent claim 21). In a similar manner, the applicants have further refined claim 11 (written in means-plus-function format as specified by 35 USC 112, p6) to be limited to instances where the area of the first wafer includes MEMS structure. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable in view of these amendments.

The applicants also wish to thank Examiner Clark for discussing an inadvertent PTO error, in which she examined claims 14-20, even though they were canceled by an earlier examiner's amendment. The applicants nevertheless appreciate her consideration of those claims and currently plan to file those claims in a divisional patent application.

The applicants also submit formal drawings, as requested in paragraph 2 of the office action.

The application thus is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Applicants request that the examiner contact applicant's attorney, Steven Saunders, if it will assist examination of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Saunders", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven G. Saunders
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